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**ALDRIDGE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

of

Health and Sanitary Condition

of the

Aldridge Urban District

For the Year ending 31st December, 1947

by

V. E. MILNE,

M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

PELSALL :
LUNT & CO., (PRINTERS) LTD.

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S T A F F

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

V. E. MILNE, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
Part Time Officer.

SANITARY INSPECTOR :

U. BOOCOCK, M.S.I.A.
Whole Time Officer.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

J. E. SMITH.

To the Aldridge Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting my Twenty-third Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Aldridge Urban District for the year ending December 31st, 1947.

I have been instructed by the Minister of Health to compile this Report on lines similar to the Annual Report for 1946.

Area.

The area of the District is 9,284 acres.

Population.

The Registrar-General's estimate of resident population is 28,930, an increase of over 2,000 from the previous estimate.

Inhabited Houses.

The number of inhabited houses according to rate books at the end of 1947, was 7,471.

Rateable Value.

The Rateable Value was £124,807 at 31/12/47, and the sum represented by a 1d. Rate was £482.

Social Conditions.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are : brickmaking, mining and agriculture, the district also being largely residential.

Vital Statistics.

These statistics relate to the net births and deaths, after correction for inward and outward transfers, as furnished by the Registrar-General.

<i>Live Births—</i>		Males.	Females.	Totals.
Legitimate	..	339	296	635
Illegitimate	..	10	7	17
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		349	303	652
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Of these 652 births, 467 were registered locally, the remaining 185 were transferred into the district from outside areas. Approximately 71% of the births were therefore registered locally. In recent years this figure has declined from 80%.

The Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 22·53 The Live Birth Rate for the whole of England and Wales was 20·5.

Illegitimate Birth Rate This rate as calculated above is 0·58.

Still Birth Rate. 17 Still Births (males 4, females 13) were registered and the rate for 1,000 total (live and still) births is 25·41, or 0·58 per 1,000 of the population. The Still Birth Rate for the whole of England and Wales was 0·50.

Death Rate There were 225 deaths (males 109, females 116) and the Crude Death Rate is 7·77 per 1,000 of the population. The A.C.F. (Areal Comparability Factor) is under present circumstances to be discontinued on account of the uneven incidence of civilian war deaths and the variety and magnitude of local population movements. The Death Rate for the whole of England and Wales was 12·0 and for 148 smaller towns (resident populations of 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 census) it was 11·9.

Seventy-three deaths were transferred into the District and 43 were transferred out.

For the year 1946 the Live Birth Rate was 19·49 and the Still Birth Rate was 0·70.

Infantile Death Rate. (Under one year of age.) All infants per 1,000 live births : 41·41.

The infantile death rate (all infants) for the whole of England and Wales was 41.

The infantile death rate (all infants) for the District was 55·44 for 1946.

Three Illegitimate Infants died under 1 year of age.

No death resulted from Puerperal Sepsis or other maternal cause.

Cancer, etc. 29 deaths resulted from Cancer. No death from Measles, no death from Whooping Cough and 4 infants under 2 years of age died from Diarrhoea.

No death was due to Diphtheria, 2 from Influenza, and 11 resulted from Pneumonia.

Laboratory Facilities. The Public Health Laboratory Service (Stafford) supplies excellent facilities for the examination of swabs, specimens of sputa, blood, etc.

During the year 11 reports on swabs from throats, ears and noses, etc., were received, one of which proved positive. 23 specimens of sputa were examined for tubercle bacilli, and 3 other specimens of blood, faeces, etc., were also examined and reported upon.

Ambulance. Apart from the fact that the Ambulance is showing signs of wear, an efficient service has been maintained throughout the year under the supervision of the Surveyor.

Mr. Bailey, the Ambulance Driver, continues to give prompt and cheerful services at all hours of the day and night.

Home Nursing. No occasion arose for engaging a Nurse for the home nursing of an infectious case.

Clinics. A Venereal Diseases Clinic for diagnostic—consultative and curative purposes at the Manor Hospital, Walsall, (for both males and females) is available for such cases.

Hospitals (Infectious and Otherwise).

Little difficulty has arisen in obtaining isolation of Infectious cases in the Wissage Isolation Hospital, Lichfield. The Council is a Constituent Authority of the Mid.-Staffs. Joint Hospital Board and transport is now provided by the Board for the removal of infectious cases.

The Aldridge Urban District Authority continues to be a member of the South Staffs. Joint Small-Pox Hospital Board.

Other Hospitals chiefly used by the inhabitants of the area are : The General Hospital (voluntary), Walsall ; the Birmingham and Wolverhampton Voluntary Hospitals, and to a lesser degree, the Manor Hospital, Walsall.

The Hallam Hospital, West Bromwich ; the Cannock and Lichfield Hospitals are also used for Public Assistance and Maternity cases.

Mother and Child Welfare.

The Mother and Child Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinics are conducted by Medical Officers under the County Authority.

Water.

The South Staffordshire Water Works Co. supplies the water for the area. Monthly reports are received from the Chemist and Bacteriologist of the Company, giving details of the Bacteriological, Physical and Chemical examinations of the water. All these reports have been satisfactory. The quality and quantity have been satisfactory and the water has no Plumbo-Solvent action. The supply is constant and direct from the Company's mains, except for a few isolated farms and cottages which are supplied from wells.

Public Cleansing.

This service has continued to be economically and efficiently conducted under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. Some difficulties were experienced by mechanical breakdowns and delays in obtaining spare parts for one of the vehicles.

Schools.

It was not considered necessary to close any School on account of an outbreak of infectious disease.

The Schools are under the control of the County Education Authority.

Housing.

The number of houses erected during the year :—

ERECTED BY LOCAL AUTHORITY.		OTHERWISE.	
Erected during 1947	In course of erection at end of 1947	Erected during 1947	In course of erection at end of 1947
88	52	42	36

TOTALS :	Erected during 1947	..	..	..	..	130
	In course of erection at end of 1947	..	..	..	..	88

Full particulars regarding inspections made, remedying of defects, action taken under Statutory Powers, overcrowding under the Housing Act, 1936, etc., will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Sampling of Milk and Foods.

The County Sampling Officer has taken repeated samples of milk and foods and these are examined and reported upon by the County Bacteriologist and Analyst. (*See Sanitary Inspector's Report.*)

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital Accommodation.

The alternative modified Scheme at Wissage, proposed by the Mid-Staffordshire Joint Hospital Board, is functioning satisfactorily.

Diphtheria Immunisation and Re-Immunisation.

Soon after the Council authorised the payment of fees for the re-immunisation of children between the ages of 5 and 14 inclusive, over 3,000 circulars strongly advising the immunisation and re-immunisation of children were distributed, through the courtesy of the Headmasters of the Schools.

As a result of this, nearly 1,000 children were re-immunised—mostly by General Practitioners.

During 1947, 496 children under 15 years of age were primarily immunised at Schools, Welfare Centres and by General Practitioners. The majority of these were immunised by the County School Medical Staff in attendance at Welfare Centres.

Of these, 496 children, 417 were under 5 years of age, the remainder being between the ages of 5 and 14 inclusive.

The following are the calculated percentages of immunised children in the district at December 31st, 1947 :

Age Group :	0—4	..	..	..	44.4%
„	5—14	..	..	..	90.77%
„	0—14	..	..	..	70.91%

The material used was “Alum Precipate” and little or no “re-action” was recorded. The usual “two shot” method was employed for primary cases.

Records of all cases immunised are kept locally, as statistics must be forwarded periodically to the Minister of Health, including a special Annual Report.

The calculated percentage of immunised children under 15 years of age in the district at the end of 1947 is 70.91%. This percentage is conservative as it is based on the number of children actually recorded as having been immunised and does not take into account those who may have been immunised, but of whom there is no record.

Diphtheria Antitoxin and Anti-Scarlatinal Serum.

Antitoxin is supplied free of charge to all general practitioners for the treatment of Diphtheria occurring in the district. Anti-Scarlatinal serum is available for the treatment of Scarlet Fever and allied infections.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1947.

DISEASE.	TOTAL Cases notified after correction.	Cases admitted to Hospital before correction.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	3	4	—
Small-Pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever.. .. .	43	14	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	29	Cannot Report	11
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	Cannot Report	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Measles	432	2	—
Whooping Cough	59	—	—
Poliomyelitis... .. .	1	3	1

Maternity Accommodation.

Since my last Report, no further progress has been made towards the establishment of a scheme for the institutional accommodation of Maternity cases. No doubt provision will be made for this service in the National Health Service Scheme.

Analysis of the Infectious Cases in Age Groups and in Wards is given below.

AGE GROUP.	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Measles	Whoop- ing Cough	AGE GROUP.	Pneu- monia	Ery- sipelas	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Puer- peral Pyrexia	Oph- thalmia Neon- atorum	Dys- entery	Typhoid & Para Typhoid Fever	Leth- argic Enceph- alitis	Infant- ile Paraly- sis
Under 1 year ..	—	—	15	11	0—5 years ..	5	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	1
1—3 years ..	2	—	87	15	5—15 years ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
3—5 years ..	9	—	133	15	15—45 years ..	17	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10 years ..	20	1	187	18	45—65 years ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15 years ..	8	1	7	—	65 and over ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 years ..	2	—	2	—										
25 and over ..	2	1	1	—										
WARD.					WARD.									
Aldridge ..	8	—	134	13	Aldridge ..	7	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Great Barr ..	6	1	36	5	Great Barr ..	13	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pelsall ..	14	1	61	8	Pelsall ..	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pheasey ..	9	1	96	18	Pheasey ..	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Rushall ..	1	—	75	3	Rushall ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Streetly ..	5	—	30	12	Streetly ..	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS ..	43	3	432	59	TOTALS ..	29	2	1	—	4	—	—	—	1
Cases occurring in Institutions and <i>included</i> in the above figures	—	1	—	—		11	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—

It will be seen that No case of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified.

The incidence rates per 1,000 of the population of the three principal infectious diseases are as follows : Pneumonia : 1·00. Diphtheria 0·10. Scarlet Fever 1·48.

Zymotic Death Rate.

Two deaths resulted from Zymotic Diseases, viz., Scarlet Fever 1 death, and Poliomyelitis 1 death, giving a Zymotic Death Rate of 0.06 per 1,000 of the population.

Tuberculosis.

34 cases of Tuberculosis (*see Table below*) were entered on the Register, 29 Pulmonary and 5 Non-Pulmonary.

Five cases occurred in Aldridge, 8 in Great Barr, 3 in Rushall 1 in Pelsall, 12 in Pheasey, and 5 in Streetly.

Eleven of these 34 cases were notified from Institutions. Twelve cases were brought to my notice otherwise than by formal notification on Form "A."

The total number of cases on the Register at the end of 1947 was 180, made up as follows :—

MALES.		FEMALES.	
Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
75	29	55	21

At the end of 1946 the number on the Register was 157. The notification of Tuberculosis during the year was moderately good. No action was necessary on account of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

Five deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 1 deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were registered, giving a Death Rate per 1,000 of the population of 0.17 and 0.03 respectively.

The ages at death, divided into sexes, are shown on the following Table :—

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary. Male.	Pulmonary. Female.	Non-Pulmonary. Male.	Non-Pulmonary. Female.	Pulmonary. Male.	Pulmonary. Female.	Non-Pulmonary. Male.	Non-Pulmonary. Female.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
15—20	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
20—25	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
25—35	9	3	1	—	1	1	—	—
35—45	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and up	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	16	13	2	3	3	2	—	1

The above Table shows the cases of Tuberculosis entered in my Register and deaths from this disease, classified according to age and sex during the year 1947.

Eleven cases were removed from the Register, on account of death, removal out of the district, or no recurrence of the disease for five years or three years from Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary cases respectively.

No action was necessary under the Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62. Eleven cases were notified on Form " I " and 6 on Form " 2."

Mortuary.

The mortuary at Rushall continues to prove of great convenience both to the medical profession and the police.

Privies.

The number of privies remaining throughout the district is 26 ; the majority of these are in isolated situations, such as farms and farm cottages.

Vaccination.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Small-Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Home and Domestic Help.

A scheme for assisting needy households is now in operation. Experience indicates the earnings of applicants for assistance are such as do not qualify the applicant for reduced charges. A few persons only have taken advantage of the scheme.

General Remarks.

The health of the population during the year 1947 was good.

The Live Birth Rate increased from 19·49 in 1946 to 22·53 in 1947.

The statistics compare more than favourably with those for all England and Wales.

It is very pleasing to note no Maternal death was due to Sepsis or other Maternal cause, and that the number of deaths from Tuberculosis was reduced from 9 to 6.

There are still a number of houses which are the subject of operative Demolition and Clearance Orders since the commencement of the War, and which are still occupied.

As reported a year ago, the occupants of these properties are living under most unsatisfactory conditions, and I strongly recommend the Council to consider a re-housing programme to meet this urgent need.

The Diphtheria Immunisation of children continues to be satisfactory. The percentage, 70·91 being a minimum figure.

Dr. Crawford and other School and Welfare Medical Officers merit grateful thanks for their assistance and co-operation in Diphtheria immunisation.

In connection with the Staffordshire Youth Committee, a course of meetings was held at the Methodist Youth Club, Great Barr, as follows :—

10/11/37—Sex Education. Lecture accompanied by a film.
“ Sex in Life.” (Audience mixed.)

17/11/47—Film : “ Human Reproduction.” Audience : Boys.

24/11/47—Lecture : “ Sex Education.” (Audience : mixed.)

1/12/47—Sex Education. Film : “ Human Reproduction.”
(Audience : Girls.)

A similar course of meetings was held at the Youth Club, Heath End, Pelsall, in October, 1947. These meetings were arranged and conducted by the Central Council for Health Education, and financed by the Staffordshire County Council.

Mr. V. F. Penn, Sanitary Inspector's Assistant, resigned during the year and has been succeeded by Mr. J. E. Smith.

Mr. Boocock, your Sanitary Inspector, as in the past, has proved himself willing and conscientious. Recently he has studied for and been successful in obtaining his Certificate for Inspector of Meat and other foods.

I desire again to thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen, and also all fellow Officers and Council Staff, for the consideration, courtesy and co-operation received in the course of my duties during the year.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

V. E. MILNE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case Rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1947.

Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller towns Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Adminis- trative County
*RATES PER 1,000 CIVILIAN POPULATION :—				
BIRTHS :				
Live Births	20·5*	23·3	22·2	22·7
Still Births	0·50*	0·62	0·54	0·49
DEATHS :				
All Causes	12·0*	13·0	11·9	12·8
Typhoid and Para- typhoid	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Scarlet Fever	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Whooping Cough	0·02	0·03	0·02	0·02
Diphtheria	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01
Influenza	0·09	0·09	0·08	0·08
Small-pox	0·00	0·00	0·00	—
Measles	0·01	0·02	0·02	0·01
NOTIFICATIONS :				
Typhoid Fever	0·01	0·01	0·00	0·01
Paratyphoid Fever	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0·05	0·06	0·05	0·05
Scarlet Fever.. ..	1·37	1·54	1·37	1·31
Whooping Cough	2·22	2·41	2·02	2·80
Diphtheria	0·13	0·15	0·14	0·14
Erysipelas	0·19	0·21	0·18	0·22
Small-pox	0·00	0·00	0·01	0·00
Measles	9·41	9·13	9·58	5·29
Pneumonia	0·79	0·89	0·68	0·64

A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths.
*Rates per 1,000 total population.

Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case Rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1947.

Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller towns Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Administrative County
	*RATES PER 1,000 CIVILIAN POPULATION :—			
DEATHS :				
All Causes under 1 year of age ..	41*	47	36	37
Enteritis & Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	5·8	8·0	3·7	4·8
	RATES PER 1,000 TOTAL (LIVE AND STILL) BIRTHS :			
NOTIFICATIONS :				
Puerperal Fever ..	7·16	8·99	6·27	{ 1·21
Puerperal Pyrexia ..				{ 6·94‡

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.	Rates per million women aged 15—44.
140 Abortion with Sepsis ..	0·10	9
141 Abortion without Sepsis ..	0·06	5
147 Puerperal Infections ..	0·16	
142—146 { Other maternal		
148—150 } causes	0·85	

*Per 1,000 related births.

‡Including Puerperal Fever.

Total Deaths.
Causes of Death in the Aldridge U.D. (Year 1947).

CAUSES OF DEATH.								M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	109	116
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
2 Cerebro Spinal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
4 Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
5 Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2
7 Other forms of Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
8 Syphilitic Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
9 Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	2
10 Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
11 Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
12 Acute Infective Encephalitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
13 Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (M.) and Uterus (F.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
14 Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4
15 Cancer of Breast	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	3
16 Cancer of all other sites	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	7
17 Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	—
18 Intracranial Vascular Lesions	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	16
19 Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34	16
20 Other Diseases of Circulatory System	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	4
21 Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	6
22 Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	8
23 Other Respiratory Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
24 Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
25 Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
26 Appendicitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
27 Other Digestive Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
28 Nephritis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3
29 Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
30 Other Maternal Causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
31 Premature Birth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	9
32 Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries and Infantile Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	2
33 Suicide	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
34 Road Traffic Accidents	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
35 Other Violent Causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
36 All Other Causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	21
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :—								Male	Female
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	15
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	12
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	3
Live Births :—									
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	349	303
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	339	296
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	7
Still Births :—									
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	13
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	13
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
POPULATION	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28,930	

SANITARY INSPECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT, 1947.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Twenty-first Annual Report for the year 1947.

I would respectfully express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their constant support, and to the Medical Officer of Health, Clerk to the Council, and Surveyor, for the help and co-operation received from them.

Water Supply.

The whole of the district is within the statutory area of the South Staffordshire Water Works Company, and the supply of water has been maintained in a satisfactory state of quality and quantity throughout the year.

A few cases exist where the only water supply obtainable is from wells.

Closet Accommodation.

The closet accommodation throughout the district is of the water carriage system, and in most cases water closets are provided for each individual house.

There still remain, however, some pail closets and privies in such areas where sewers are not available.

Number of privies remaining in the district	..	26
Number of pails remaining in the district	..	88

11 Pail Closets were converted to Water Closets during the year.

The following details are supplied by the courtesy of Mr. H. S. Onions, the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Apart from the sewers laid to serve Linley Squatters' Camp and the houses to be erected on the Red House Lane site, Aldridge, and the Barns Lane site, Rushall, no large schemes have been carried out.

Rivers and Streams.

Effluents from sewage disposal works in the area have been maintained at a satisfactory standard of purity.

Number of Houses Erected during the Year.

(a) By Local Authority	..	..	..	..	..	88
(b) By Other Local Authority	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
(c) By Private Enterprise	..	..	..	..	..	42
						130

Number of Houses in Course of Erection at the End of the Year.

(a) By Local Authority	..	..	..	..	..	52
(b) By Other Local Authorities	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
(c) By Private Enterprise	..	..	..	..	..	36
						88

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

Rats and Mice destruction work has been carried out throughout the year in close co-operation with the Ministry of Food and under the powers delegated by the Staffordshire County Council, under the provisions of the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919, including :—

PREMISES INSPECTED.						
Found Infested	..	..	..	..	..	53
Found not to be infested	..	..	..	..	..	105
TOTAL	..	..	..	..	..	158

Visits made.	Private Properties.	Council Premises.	Total.
Investigations	349	30	379
Treatments	258	52	310
Total	607	82	689

Report on the Collection and Disposal of Household Refuse and Salvage.

1st April, 1947, to 31st March, 1948.

I have the honour to submit herewith a Report on the work of collection and disposal of household refuse and of the salvage operations for the year 1947—48 in respect of the whole of the district.

Staff.

Labour has still proved very difficult and irregular throughout the year.

The full possible working time throughout the year for the staff employed is equivalent to 19·71 persons each week, whereas the actual attendance at work shows an average equivalent to 18·23 persons at work each week. It will therefore be seen that there has been throughout the year a deficiency of the staff available equivalent to 1·48 persons each week.

The figure 19·71 is actually 1·3 below the estimated figure of 21 of staff required. But to allow for absenteeism it is proving necessary to employ two other men in order to maintain an adequate staff.

The absenteeism referred to above has occurred to the following extent :—

Working Hours lost by absenteeism :—

One man hours lost by workers					of possible
certified sick	..	..	..	1217·25 .. 2·5%	working hours.
One man hours lost through causes					
other than certified sickness	..	2393·75	..	4·9%	„
Total one man hours lost	..	3611·0	..	7·4%	„

Sick Benefit.

The amount of wages paid as sick benefit to the staff whilst absent from work for reasons of certified sickness has shown a net cost to the Council of £64 15s. 9d.

Vehicles Employed.

- One Morris Commercial Lorry with dust cart body.
- One 8·9 cubic yard S. and D. freighter dust cart.
- One 10·5 cubic yard S. and D. freighter dust cart.
- One Morris Commercial Lorry used on salvage work.

Disposal of Refuse.

Tipping has been carried out at Aldridge Road, Streetly, and Heath End, Pelsall.

Progress of Work.

Some delay in the work was experienced during the year, owing to mechanical break-down of vehicles and, unfortunately, this occurred during the winter months, when refuse yield is greatest. Prior to and after these circumstances collection was maintained at intervals of 8—9 days.

Pail closets were however cleansed each week.

The following working days were lost by the respective vehicles as shown :—

S and D Freighter No. 2	..	..	..	..	Nil
No. 3	..	..	..	..	5
Morris Dust Cart	..	..	..	..	33
Total Days lost	..	..	..	..	38

Costings.

In calculating costings a “ depreciation charge ” based on a seven years life of the S. and D. freighter No. 3 vehicle, and on a five years life of the two Morris Commercial vehicles has been included.

The two S and D vehicles and the Morris Dust Cart have all been fully depreciated.

The collection costs are calculated on the figure £5,585 3s. 0d. which is the net collection cost after deducting revenue from salvage.

			£	s.	d.
Gross Collection Costs	..	..	6,696	2	3
<i>Less Revenue ex Salvage</i>	..	..	1,110	19	3
Net Collection Costs	..	..	£5,585	3	0

The following Table shows the cost of collection and disposal under the various headings and also makes comparison with similar costings for the years 1945—46 and 1946—47.

	ALL DISTRICT — YEAR :—		
	1945—46	1946—47	1947—48
Area “ in acres ”	9,284	9,284	9,284
Population	24,830	26-200	28,930
Weight of refuse collected per 1,000 population per day ..	16·66 cwts.	16·16 cwts.	16·2 cwts.
Net cost collection and disposal per annum (including depreciation)	£ s. d. 3,905 9 3	£ s. d. 4,886 13 4	£ s. d. 5,585 3 0
Expenditure per 1,000 population per annum, collection & disposal	157 5 3	186 10 3	193 0 6
Cost collection and disposal per occupied house per annum ..	10 10·8	12 8	15 0
Cost per ton per annum :— Collection and disposal.. ..	10 3·86	12 7·7	12·11·7
Rate in the Pound, collection and disposal	8·34d.	10·2d.	11·5d.
Average length of haul per load	7·16 miles	8·97 miles	6·3 miles
Cost per 1,000 houses per annum	£545 16 1	£658 2 6	£752 0 1

Yearly Summary of Salvage Collected.

Year ending 31st March, 1948.

The Table below shows the quantities of various materials salvaged and sold during the year, together with the income resulting from the sales.

The previous year's sales amounted to £1,033 15s. 8d.

MATERIALS.					QUANTITY.				VALUE.		
			Gross	Doz. Units	T.	C.	Q.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	..	..	..	..	69	18	3	14	457	11	4
Cardboard	..	..	..	..	20	14	0	11	131	19	10
Newspaper	..	..	..	..			1	12		3	10
Total Paper	..	..	..	..	90	13	1	9	589	15	0
Bones	..	..	..	..	2	13	3	14	15	10	4
Textiles	..	..	..	..	5	3	3	0	120	4	8
Glass Bottles	..	..	111	10 0	—	—	—	—	95	18	4
Glass Jars	..	..	73	1 2	—	—	—	—	57	16	1
Glass Cullet (White)	..	..	..	..	6	15	2	0	13	7	7
Glass Cullet (Black)	..	..	..	..	7	4	1	0	3	14	7
Kitchen Waste	..	..	..	..	111	15	1	0	211	9	1
Rubber Tyres	..	..	..	..	—	—	—	—		10	0
Rope and String	..	..	..	..		7	2	17	2	13	7
									£1,110	19	3

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Inspections made re Housing Defects—

Housing Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Public Health Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	54
Informal	..	..	..	..	..	..	669

Inspections made re Demolition—

Housing Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Number of Visits re Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Number of Visits re dairies and cowsheds	..	..	..	..	..	..	53
„ „ bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
„ „ factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
„ „ outworkers' premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
„ „ food shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
„ „ cases of infectious diseases (Inquiries)	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
„ „ disinfection of premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
„ „ salvage work	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
„ „ animals--keeping of	..	..	..	..	..	..	10

Home and Domestic Help	..	..	..	..	..	5
Number of visits re vermin	..	..	..	..	..	7
„ „ closet accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	51
„ „ ashpit—bins	..	..	..	..	..	1,049
„ „ drainage	..	..	..	..	..	107
„ „ tents, vans, and sheds	..	..	..	..	..	147
„ „ accumulations	..	..	..	..	..	11
„ „ housing accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	161
„ „ ice cream premises	..	..	..	..	..	3
„ „ cesspools	..	..	..	..	..	16
„ „ water supply	..	..	..	..	..	1
„ „ smoke	..	..	..	..	..	2
„ „ refuse—house enquiries	..	..	..	..	..	15
„ „ refuse—trade	..	..	..	..	..	5
„ „ miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	5
„ „ unsound food	..	..	..	..	..	5
„ „ ditches—foul	..	..	..	..	..	21
VISITS — Total	..	..	..	..	..	2,551
VISITS MADE—						
Primary Visits	..	..	..	..	..	1,791
Re-visits	..	..	..	..	..	760
						2,551

Notices dealt with during the Year.

	Notices Served.	Notices Completed.	Other Notices Superseded or Rescinded.
Informal ..	352	212	118
Statutory ..	179	150	1
Total	531	362	119

Factories, Etc.

Number of Inspections made—

Factories	..	..	..	..	..	3
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	3
Outworkers' premises	..	..	..	..	..	6
						12

Infectious Diseases.

Primary visits and inquiries	..	..	..	..	24
Disinfection of infected premises	..	..	..	..	5
					29

Nature and Number of Structural Defects dealt with in Houses : together with Nuisances and Other Matters.

House roofs defective	102
Houses dirty	1
Paving defective—interior	7
„ „ yard	1
Floor boards	33
Drainage—surface channels defective	7
„ choked	10
„ foul—defective—untrapped	27
Water Closets—defective flush	20
„ „ defective	30
„ „ pan broken	27
„ „ insufficient in factory	1
Animals improperly kept	2
Sinks—foul bricks	1
Eaves, gutters, etc.—defective, insufficient	24
Miscellaneous nuisances	64
Exterior brickwork—joints defective	16
„ „ defective	6
Fire Range defective	20
Dustbins defective	193
Ashpits eliminated	2
Sewers choked—referred to Surveyor	1
Bakehouses—defects	2
Milk and Dairies Order	7
Tents, vans, sheds, etc.	1
Walls and/or ceiling plastering—defective	152
Wash boiler	13
Window frames and glazing—defective	61
Doors and frames—defective	14
Sash cords—defective	21
Cesspools—foul—defective	4
Pantry—insufficient vent.	1

Inspection and Supervision of Food—Visits to Dairies, Shops, etc.

Cowsheds and Dairies	53
Bakehouses	3
Food Shops	32
	—
	88
	—

The following record of samples of milk taken in the district, has been supplied by the courtesy of Dr. G. Ramage, County Medical Officer of Health, Staffordshire County Council.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Details of Samples taken under the above-mentioned Act in the Urban District of Aldridge during 1947.

SAMPLE.	GENUINE.	ADULTERATED.	REMARKS.
Milk	9	2	Added water and fat deficiency. Fines and costs amounting to £15 1s. 0d. imposed.
Milk, Sterilized ..	10	—	
Milk, Pasteurised ..	15	—	
Milk, Tuberculin Tested	9	—	
Appeal to cow samples	2	—	

Street Sampling.

DESIGNATION.	No. of Samples taken.	CLEANLINESS.		T. B.
		Satisfactory	Un-satisfactory	
Tuberculin Tested ..	3	2	1	—
T.T. (Pasteurised) ..	28*	24 1†	4 1†	—
Pasteurised	33*	28 4†	5	—
Sterilised	28*	28 1†	—	—
Non-designated ..	39 12*	31	8	2
	131 101*	113 6†	18 1†	2

*No biological test.

†Failed Phosphatase Test.

Unsound Food.

The following articles of food were inspected and condemned as unfit for human consumption.

						Tins	Weight	
							lbs.	ozs.
Tinned Tongue	..	..	..	..	..	—	6	0
Stewed Steak	..	..	..	..	..	2	—	—
Baked Beans	..	..	..	..	..	4	—	—
Evaporated Milk	..	..	..	..	..	24	—	—
Oranges	..	..	..	..	..	—	45	0
Cheese (Tinned)	..	..	..	..	..	—	15	0
Bacon	..	..	..	..	..	—	11	12
Ham	..	..	..	..	..	—	4	12

Housing.

1. *Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—*

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Acts or Housing Acts) 212
- (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose .. 212
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 177
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. 177
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 9
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. 200
- (5) Houses on which undertakings were given and completed Nil

2. *Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notice :*

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 220

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By Owners Nil
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. Nil

- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 179
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By owners 53
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. 53
- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
- (1) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 1
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil

4. *Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.*

- (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 6
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein 7
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein 62
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year Nil
- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 6
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 49

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

U. BOOCOCK,

Sanitary Inspector.

